

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In reviewing the claims as amended in the Examiner's Amendment accompanying the Notice of Allowance, applicants have noted a perceived lack of clarity and/or inconsistency in claims 1-4 and some typographical errors in claims 14-17.

As to claims 1-4, these claims have the common wording "a gob as a raw material for the blank is supplied into a lower mold member". Applicants believe there may be some confusion as to the expression "into a lower mold member", namely that it might suggest that there are two lower molding members. Applicants suggest that these four claims be amended to state that the "gob ... is supplied onto the molding surface of the lower mold member". Antecedent for "the lower mold member" will be apparent from line 3 of each claim which refers to a lower mold member. It is also implicit that the raw material is applied onto the molding surface of the lower mold member and not some other portion of it, so this serves to emphasize placement of the gob.

The second aspect of claims 1-4 relates to one of the two "provisos" present in the claims as amended by the examiner. The expression in question "provided that at least one surrounding edge portion of the glass blank does not come into contact with at least one molding surface of the mold" was originally presented in an Amendment filed June 12, 2006. Later, in an Amendment filed by applicants on February 7, 2007 a second "proviso" was added. In reviewing the amended claims, applicants are concerned that the first proviso quoted above may be inconsistent with a previous portion of the claim which provides "without causing any surrounding edge portion of the blank under the production to come into contact with the mold members or parts used in the press molding". Thus if read literally the first proviso would seem to imply that another or some surrounding edge portion (other than the at least one surrounding edge portion) of the glass blank comes into contact with at least one molding surface an understanding, of course, that would be inconsistent with the previous expression "without causing any surrounding edge portion of the blank under the production to come into contact with the mold members or parts used in the press molding". Applicants request to have this proviso deleted from each of claims 1-4 to render the claims clearer and internally consistent.

Some other minor matters have been noted, in claim 14 it appears that the word "and" should be inserted before "then cooling the molded article to produce ...".

Also, in claim 15, the second line from the end, the term "tile" should read "the".

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In claims 15, 16 and 17, line 8 of each, "and" has been inserted between "and mold parts" and "then".

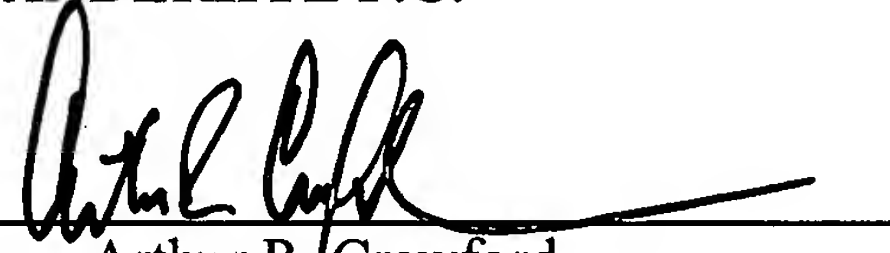
Applicants respectfully propose these further amendments to the claims for purposes of clarity and consistency and form of expression. Counsel does not believe that this Amendment will require any further searching or significant attention to review.

Favorable action is solicited. Should the examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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